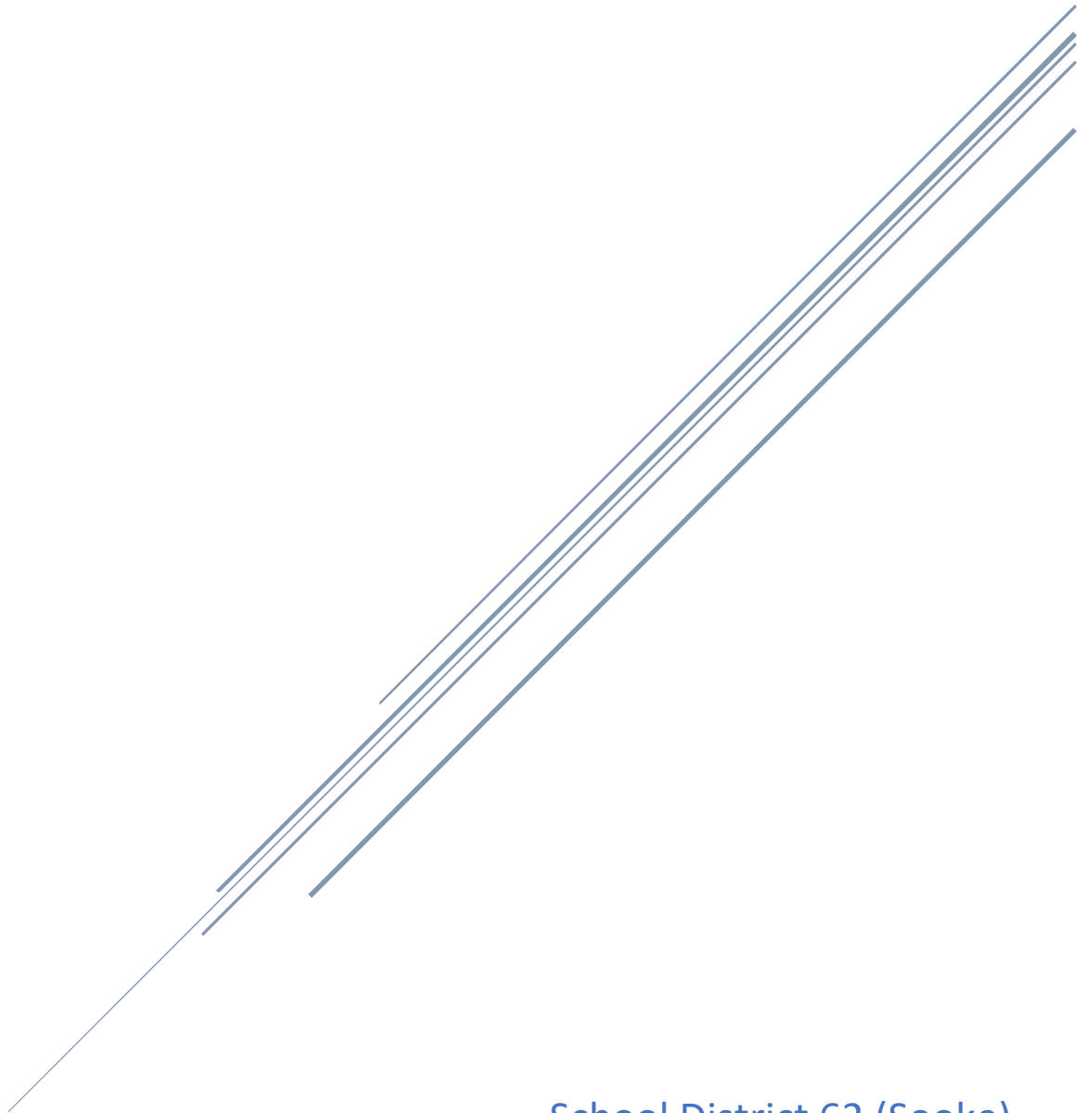


SD62 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN FOR PARENTS

September 18, 2022 V. 11



School District 62 (Sooke)

Purpose

The intent of the Communicable Disease Prevention Plan is to inform School District #62 Sooke (SD62) staff regarding the Operations and Health & Safety processes for SD 62 sites to prevent transmission of communicable disease(s) (e.g. COVID-19).

Background - COVID-19

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Transmission within K-12 school settings accounts for a minority of COVID-19 cases, even amongst students and staff (Provincial Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, August 25, 2022).
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs (BC CDC, March 16, 2022).

Transmission Mitigation Strategies

- Staff must determine if they are experiencing symptoms before attending work. If you are unsure or concerned about your symptoms, connect with your health care provider or call 8-1-1.
- The consistent practice of good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks or unwashed utensils (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, Sept. 13, 2023).
- Avoid touching your face with your hands.
- Always follow the guidelines and recommendations of the public health officer.

Space Arrangements

Schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, September 13, 2023).

- Remind students and staff about respecting others personal space (the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person) (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, September 13, 2023).

Work Environment

The following are considerations for classrooms and other SD 62 buildings,

- As per WorkSafeBC legislative requirements (*OHSR 4.79*) if air quality concerns are brought forward, they will be investigated accordingly.
- Windows may be opened when the weather permits if it does not impact the functioning of ventilation systems (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, September 13, 2023).
- Hand wash stations will have liquid soap (NO bar soap) and paper towel (or air dryer).
 - If no handwashing sink is located in the classroom, students and staff will have access to designated handwashing stations, washrooms or hand sanitizer dispensers.

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- Desktops and counter surfaces should be cleared at the end of the day to facilitate disinfection for nightly custodial cleaning/disinfection.
- Gatherings and Events:
 - School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools), regardless of location, can occur in line with the [BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) from September 13, 2023.

Programs and Activities

Schools should continue to implement ongoing communicable disease prevention practices (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette) specific to the activity (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).

For each area below the SD 62 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan will be followed. If areas have additional considerations, they will be noted below. For any additional information please see the [292752 Attach 1 DRAFT Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines in K-12 Settings \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

Field Trips/Trades in Training/Work Experience Programs

Students enrolled in individual training/work experience programs should follow the communicable disease prevention plan required by the workplace/facility or the field trip venue. Classes (or other similar groupings of students) participating in training/work experience programs or field trips should follow the more stringent measures (if applicable) between the school and the workplace/facility/field trip destination's communicable disease prevention plans (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).

Student Transportation

Buses

- Bus drivers and students should be encouraged to practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Bus drivers, teachers and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.

Hand Hygiene

Follow these guidelines to ensure effective hand hygiene in schools:

- Facilitate regular opportunities for students to practice hand hygiene:
 - This can include using portable hand-washing sites and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol.

Illness and Self Assessment Process

Health Awareness

Health awareness reduces the likelihood of a person with a communicable disease coming to school when they are infectious. A health awareness means a person regularly checking to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities before coming to school to prevent spread of communicable diseases within school

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settings. Schools do not need to monitor students or staff for symptoms of illness (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, September 2023).

- Parents and caregivers of students in the school setting who are exhibiting symptoms of illness, such as respiratory illness, should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities or otherwise advised by a healthcare provider. Those experiencing certain illnesses, such as gastrointestinal illness caused by norovirus, may be advised to stay home for longer (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, Sept. 13, 2023).
- Children can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities or otherwise advised by a healthcare provider (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, September 13, 2023).
- If you are unsure or concerned about your child's symptoms, connect with your health care provider or call 8-1-1 (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, Sept. 13, 2023).

If a student becomes ill while on site:

If a student develops symptoms at school/site, the schools/site should:

- Notify their site-manager or principal/vice-principal.
- Parents/guardians must be notified and advised to pick-up the child immediately.
- Schools should have a space available where the student or staff can wait comfortably and is separated from others.
- Schools must provide supervision for younger children.
- Request that the individual stay home until symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to participate in all school-related activities (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).

School and School District Responsibilities

School administrators should ensure that staff, other adults entering the school, parents, caregivers, and students are aware that they should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, September 13, 2023). This can be supported through communications (e.g. emails/letters to parents and staff), orientation activities (e.g., meetings, videos) and other reminders (e.g., signage on doors) (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).

Building Access:

- Visitors, including community groups using the school, should follow applicable communicable disease prevention measures outlined in this document (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- The decision to wear a non-medical mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors. A person's choice should be supported and treated with respect.
- Promoting the school environment as supportive for wearing masks through mask-specific messaging at assemblies and in announcements, signs, and written communications. Include

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that some people wear masks to reduce their risk of communicable disease, and it is important to be kind and respectful of other's choices.

- Schools should continue to have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one, or who experience respiratory symptoms at school/work and would like to wear one (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces should occur at least once in a 24-hour period and when visibly dirty.
- Frequently touched surfaces are items touched by larger numbers of students and staff. They can include doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains and toilet handles, as well as shared equipment (e.g., computer keyboards, PE/sports and music equipment), appliances (e.g., microwaves) and service counters (e.g., library circulation desk), and may change from day to day based on utilization (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).
- Frequently-touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, playdough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use. Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and StrongStart classes) can also be used (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023).

Behaviour Support Plans, Personal Care Plans and Worker Safety Plans

School districts and independent schools are expected to implement health and safety measures that promote inclusion of students with disabilities/diverse abilities.

References

- MOE, *Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, September 2023.*
[292752 Attach 1. DRAFT Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines in K-12 Settings \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) BC CDC, *Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, September 13, 2023.*
[Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance K-12 Schools \(bccdc.ca\)](#)
BC CDC March 16, 2022.
[About COVID-19 \(bccdc.ca\)](#)
CDC, February 25, 2022.
[Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#)